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R 071455Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 372
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *M. J. [Signature]*

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RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

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SUBJ: MAZUROV ON ABM TALKS AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. DIRECT US-SOVIET RELATIONS OCCUPIED VERY LITTLE SPACE IN THE FOREIGN PART OF MAZUROV'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY SPEECH. HE ASSERTED MERELY THAT SOVIETS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH USA, BUT WENT ON TO LAY BLAME ON US FOR THE MANY SERIOUS OBSTACLES WHICH EXIST IN THIS REGARD.

2. MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF MAZUROV'S COMMENTS TOUCHING ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS STATEMENT (HEARD ON TV AND CARRIED IN TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMARY HIS SPEECH) THAT MOSCOW HAS EXPRESSED READINESS HOLD TALKS WITH US ON ABM PROBLEMS. CENTRAL PRESS TODAY OMITTS MUCH MENTION AND CONFINES ITSELF TO NOTING THAT "SOVIET INITIATIVE" ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN MET "POSITIVELY". BY DELIBERATELY EXPUNGING MAZUROV'S REMARKS FROM OFFICIAL VERSION OF SPEECH, REGIME MAY BE TRYING TO AVOID APPEARANCE THAT IT MORE INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT THAN IS US, PARTICULARLY SINCE GROMYKO RECENTLY MADE SIMILAR REMARKS IN HIS UNGA SPEECH.

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